

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1687

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PRESS ON SPD PARTY CONGRESS

REF: BONN 5475

1. EAST GERMAN PRESS APPLIED FAMILIAR TECHNIQUE OF MIXING SELECT REPORTAGE WITH POLITICAL COMMENTARY IN ITS COVERAGE OF SPD PARTY CONGRESS. REPORTS FROM HANOVER BY ADN BONN CORRESPONDENT DIETER WOLF, CARRIED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, DESCRIBED FAIRLY ACCURATELY RESOLUTIONS PASSED, AS WELL AS BRANDT- VOIGT ESCHANGE (REFTEL), BUT AT SAME TIME INTERJECTED OCCASIONAL POLEMICAL NOTE. FOR EXAMPLE, WOLF CHASTIZED CHANCELLOR FOR " INSINUATING" THAT GDR FOLLOWING " RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES" IN IMPLEMENTING GENERAL RELATIONS TREATY (GRT), ALTHOUGH BRANDT " KNOWS GDR HAS ALWAYS FULFILLED BOTH SPIRIT AND LETTER OF ITS TREATIES AND COMMITMENTS". WOLF ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH BRANDT' S CONTENTION THAT GRT KEEPS GERMAN QUESTION OPEN AND CHARGED SPD WITH CONTRAVENING QA IN DESCRIBING WEST BERLIN AS " LAND BERLIN".

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2. IN RATHER UNDISGUISED EFFORT PORTRAY SPD LEADERS AS HIDE-BOUND MILITARISTS, WOLF REPORTED AT LENGTH ON LEBER' S AND SCHMIDT' S STRUGGLE TO DEFEAT LEFTIST RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FREEZE AND EVENTUAL REDUCTION OF FRG ARMAMENTS EXPENDITURES. IN THIS CONNECTION, WOLF ACCUSED LEBER OF RAISING BOGEY OF INCREASED SOVIET TANK FORCES IN GDR AND PLAYED ON SCHMIDT' S CONTENTION THAT ARMAMENTS WERE NECESSARY SHIELD IN CURRENT EAST- WEST NEGOTIATIONS.

3. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, WOLF ALSO DRUMMED HEAVILY ON WHAT HE CONSIDERED ANTI- COMMUNIST TONE OF CONGRESS, PROMINENTLY HIGHLIGHTING NEWLY ELECTED SPD DEPUTY CHAIRMAN KUEHN' S REMARK THAT " AS A PARTY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, SPD IS AN ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTY". KLEIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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